

Hate in Southern California

If FBI Director Louis Freeh is looking for some extremist groups to investigate, he need look no further than the hate-and-violence drenched movement in the Southwestern United States that pushes for open immigration and demands return of the Southwest to Mexico. Long before right-wing militias began mobilizing in reaction against gun control, far-left Hispanic



Samuel Francis

activists were soaking themselves in violent rhetoric that makes the militias sound like the Little League.

Last year, not long after the passage of California's Proposition 187, a radical Hispanic group calling itself the "Mexican Movement for National

liberation" put out a statement that tells us what it thinks about the effort to remove illegal immigrants from the welfare rolls. Proposition 187 "is a declaration of war against the Mexican people in the militarized occupied northern half of our Mexican nation," it proclaimed.

The statement went on to accuse the "Europeans" (note the lower case spelling) of "genocide against our people" for the last 400 years, but white Americans and American institutions are the special targets of their hatred. "The local police departments are nothing more than glorified armies of occupation in our barrios, colonias and homeland. Their attempts at selective assassinations have failed to intimidate us. In a version of low intensity warfare, they have attempted to destroy our political movements." It's just as well Timothy McVeigh didn't meet up with these companeros. They would have had a lot to talk about.

Proposition 187, the statement screams, "is a wake-up call to resist by any and all means," and it calls for creating "the revolutionary clandestine formations that will defend our people and lead to our ultimate national liberation struggle and socialist reunification of Mexico." It ends with a call to "create the conditions for the Mexican Intifada."

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Lest you imagine that this and similar statements represent merely a loony fringe, understand that this one was published in a tabloid newspaper put out by another group, "People against Racist Terror" (PART) that helped organize mass demonstrations against 187 in Los Angeles only days before the real citizens of the state overwhelmingly passed the resolution. PART's rhetoric duplicates that of the Mexican "liberation" group, comparing the U.S. government to Nazi Germany.

Curiously also, the newspaper anticipates the fevered witchhunt rhetoric of the mainstream media in the last few weeks trying to link the Populist Right with the Oklahoma City bombing. Thus, it attacks anti-abortion activists, the religious right, Second Amendment supporters and the militia movement, among others. Fringe such groups may be, but the point is that they're the ones active among Hispanics in the Southwest.

But don't bet your camouflage the FBI is looking at this movement, with its not-too-subtle incitement of violence and guerrilla warfare. What the Bureau actually did during the 187 controversy was harass law-abiding supporters of the resolution.

Thus, three days before the vote on 187, one of its co-authors, Barbara Coe, received a little visit from the FBI. Assistant Attorney General Deval Patrick defends the agents by claiming they were just interested in whether leaflets Mrs. Coe had recently distributed about possible illegal voting by aliens had violated voters' civil rights. But Miss Coe says the agents repeatedly asked if the leaflets had been designed or distributed by the Republican Party. Just a little visit to let her know Big Brother was watching.

Another little visit was paid to yet another citizen, Horacio Grana, who legally immigrated from Mexico and who supported 187. After a federal judge blocked the successful ballot measure in a court ruling, Mr. Grana wrote to the judge objecting to the ruling and giving his name and address. A few days later U.S. marshals showed up to quiz him about it. "I told them I have the right to freedom of speech," Mr. Grana says. "They had a very bad attitude with me. It was like Gestapo tactics."

President Clinton leapt at the chance to blame his political critics on the right for the Oklahoma City atrocity, and the federal leviathan wastes no time investigating law-abiding supporters of immigration reform, but no one cares that left-wing extremist Hispanic activists have long openly called for violence and insurrection and pushed for the disintegration of the country. If this is an example of what the president means by "counter-terrorism," it makes you wonder if maybe the militias don't have a point.